

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001

First-Class Mail and Periodicals
Service Standard Changes, 2021

Docket No. N2021-1

PRESIDING OFFICER'S RULING EXCUSING POSTAL SERVICE FROM
ANSWERING PORTIONS OF DFC/USPS-T4-8

(Issued May 12, 2021)

On May 7, 2021, the Commission appointed the undersigned as the Presiding Officer in Docket No. N2021-1.¹ The Commission tasked the Presiding Officer with managing the procedures in Docket No. N2021-1, including resolving discovery disputes. Order No. 5888 at 1-2.

On May 4, 2021, intervenor Douglas F. Carlson propounded the following interrogatory (labelled DFC/USPS-T4-8) on Postal Service witness Steven W Monteith:²

Please refer to your testimony at page 16, lines 16-17 and page 17, lines 1-2.

f. For the finding that 71 percent of respondents expected their sent mail to arrive within seven days, please provide all the information concerning this market research or survey that 39 C.F.R. § 3010.323 requires you to provide, including and not limited to the exact question, the exact answer

¹ Order Designating Presiding Officer, May 7, 2021 (Order No. 5888).

² See Douglas F. Carlson Interrogatories and Requests for Production of Documents to United States Postal Service Witness Steven W. Monteith (DFC/USPS-T4-1–12), May 4, 2021.

choices, the percentage of respondents who selected each answer choice, and details about the survey sample and methodology. Please also provide the same information listed herein for any related questions in that survey about time to delivery and customers' expectations thereof.

On May 7, 2021, the Postal Service moved to be excused from answering the interrogatory.³ The Postal Service responds that the interrogatory pertains to a reference in the witness's testimony to a survey conducted by the United States Postal Service Office of Inspector General (USPS OIG), which was publicly described in an audit posted to the USPS OIG website. Motion at 1-2. The Postal Service avers, therefore, that it has no information responsive to the interrogatory in its custody or control. *Id.* at 2.

The Presiding Officer accepts the Postal Service's representation that it has no information within its custody or control that is responsive to the interrogatory. The Postal Service is excused from answering interrogatory DFC/USPS-T4-8(f).

RULING

The Motion of the United States Postal Service to be Excused from Responding to Douglas F. Carlson's Interrogatory (DFC/USPS-T4-8(f)), filed May 7, 2021, is granted.

Christopher Laver
Presiding Officer

³ Motion of the United States Postal Service to be Excused from Responding to Douglas F. Carlson's Interrogatory (DFC/USPS-T4-8(f)), May 7, 2021 (Motion).